

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01976 281610Z
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FBO-02 SY-05 /019 W
-----290403Z 030566 /14

R 281532Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3837

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN THOMAS FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ABLD, ASEC, LE
SUBJECT: BEIRUT OFFICE BUILDING

1. APPRECIATE HAVING VISIT HERE OF MESSRS. TWOHIE AND HENDON FROM FBO TO DISCUSS NEW OFFICE BUILDING. THEY HAVE PRESENTED TWO ALTERNATE SPACE PROGRAMS, ONE BASED ON TOTAL AMERICAN STRENGTH OF 84 (A PROJECTION FROM NEA/EX) AND ANOTHER BASED ON OUR OWN PROJECTION, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PARA EXERCISE, OF A STAFF OF 46 BY END OF FY 79. I DO NOT PLAN TO ACCEPT EVEN THE FIGURE OF 46 AS LONG AS THE SECURITY SITUATION REMAINS UNCERTAIN, BUT BELIEVE THAT THE FIGURE OF 84 IS PROBABLY MORE REALISTIC AS A LONG-TERM PROJECTION, GIVEN THE DEMANDS WE ARE BOUND TO GET FROM REGIONAL OFFICES ONCE BEIRUT IS BACK TO NORMAL. I THEREFORE SUGGEST FBO PROCEED WITH PLANNING THE REORGANIZATION OF SPACE BASED ON THE LARGER PROJECTION.

2. NEXT STEP SHOULD BE VISIT HERE BY TEAM FROM SY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHANGES NEEDED TO IMPROVE SECURITY. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM FOR US IS NUMBER OF WINDOWS WHICH EXPOSED TO FIRE FROM SURROUNDING BUILDINGS. UNDERSTAND FBO DESIRE TO AVOID BLOCKHOUSE APPROACH, BUT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT WE ARE MOVING BACK INTO MIDDLE AGES IN
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TERMS OF PERSONAL SECURITY ABROAD (IF NOT AT HOME) AND WE WOULD DO WELL TO STUDY BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FORTIFICATION IN PLANNING OUR BUILDINGS. FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT SHOULD GIVE WAY TO VAUBAN.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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